

Applicants thank the Examiner and Office for the courtesies extended to Applicants and Applicants' representative during an in-person interview on August 1, 2000. Primary Examiner Ford, Supervisory Primary Examiner Lazarus, Richard Wisniewski, and David Abraham participated in the interview. During the interview, there was a general discussion of the claim terminology, together with a discussion of the outstanding Office Action. In addition, the Examiners suggested several claim amendments that might, in their minds, help to clarify the claim terminology.

Also, during the interview, Primary Examiner Ford asked for a copy of an article authored by Richard Wisniewski and Vincent Wu with an apparent publication date of 1992. A copy of this article should be included in the IDS attached to this Response.

It is Applicants' understanding that the amendments to the claims that are set forth herein resolve the issue of non-responsiveness as addressed in the Office Action mailed July 5, 2000.

Conclusion:

Applicants submit that currently pending claims 36-40, 44-62, 64-65 and 68 are in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and timely issuance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. Any questions regarding this matter may be addressed to the undersigned at (650) 849-3438.

Respectfully submitted,

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